

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, NI, US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA, OCTOBER 8 - 10

REFS: STATE 236079; USUN 4839, 4872

1. SUMMARY: COMMISSIONER GARBA SPENT 45 HOURS IN WASHINGTON ON PRIVATE VISIT DURING WHICH HE SPOKE AT EMBASSY LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND OTHER DEPOFFS, VISITED CAPITOL HILL AT INVITATION OF SENATOR CLARK, MET WITH NIGERIAN STUDENTS, TOURED J.F.K. CENTER WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR PALMER, AND HELD SEVERAL PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS. SECRETARY KISSINGER OFFERED TO SEE GARBA IN LATE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 10. THE COMMISSIONER WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT BUT EXPRESSED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR HAVING ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE SECRETARY (REFDEPTTEL) AND BEING INVITED TO DO SO A SECOND TIME.

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2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF GARBA'S SPEECH OCTOBER 9 AT LUNCHEON GIVEN FOR HIM BY NIGERIAN CHARGE OBE AT WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL.

3. COL. GARBA DENIED THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO DELIVER A SPEECH, BUT THE NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE

PRESENT, COMPELLED HIM TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS. HE SAID THE RECENT EVENTS IN NIGERIA HAD NOT BEEN WIDELY REPORTED. THE WEST IS NOT MUCH INTERESTED UNLESS A LOT OF BLOOD IS SPILLED OR TRIBES ARE FIGHTING EACH OTHER, AND THE REVOLUTION IN NIGERIA HAD BEEN SWIFT, BLOODLESS, AND SUCCESSFUL.

4. GARBA SAID HE REALIZED THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD THINK THAT THE GROUP OF YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS HAD SEIZED POWER JUST BECAUSE THEY WANTED IT, BUT NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. THE TRUTH, AS ANYONE WHO HAD BEEN IN NIGERIA RECENTLY KNOWS, IS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN GOING TO THE DOGS. THE YOUNG OFFICERS WANTED TO CHANGE THINGS SO THAT NIGERIA COULD REACH HER REAL POTENTIAL, SO THAT THE ABUNDANT RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY COULD BE TAPPED, SO THAT NO NIGERIAN NEED BE OPPRESSED, AND SO THAT ALL CITIZENS COULD TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COUNTRY. THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS, TO CLEAN UP NIGERIA'S FAMOUS CORRUPTION, AND INSTILL THE NECESSARY DISCIPLINE. ALL NIGERIANS ARE INVOLVED, AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE BEEN.

5. GARBA SAID NIGERIA WILL HAVE A FORTHRIGHT FOREIGN POLICY. THE LAST REGIME ACHIEVED A CERTAIN SUCCESS IN THIS AREA, BUT ITS AIM WAS TO ENHANCE THE PERSON OF THE HEAD OF STATE. HIS NAME WAS BETTER KNOWN THAN THAT OF NIGERIA. NOW THE NATION WILL COME FIRST.

6. GARBA SAID HE COULD NOT FAIL TO MENTION OIL SINCE OIL COMPANIES WERE REPRESENTED AT THE LUNCHEON. HE RECALLED THAT NIGERIA IS A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF OPEC AND DUTY BOUND TO IMPLEMENT ITS POLICIES. HE KNEW THAT SOME PEOPLE UNCLASSIFIED

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CLAIMED THAT THE 10 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE WOULD CAUSE HARDSHIP IN THE U.S., BUT HE DIDN'T THINK THE BURDEN WOULD BE UNBEARABLE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE VAST SUMS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE HAVING TO PAY FOR GOODS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OIL AND OTHER PRICES ESCALATE IN A VICIOUS CYCLE AND CONFESSED THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM, BUT HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

WOULD HELP. HE SAID THE FMG HAS NO INTEREST IN FURTHER NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY QUOTE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNQUOTE, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH ITS PRESENT STAKE IN THE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL NIGERIAN OIL CORPORATION AND A 60 PERCENT INTEREST IN SHELL. THE OIL COMPANIES,

THEREFORE, HAVE QUOTE NOTHING TO FEAR WHATSOEVER UNQUOTE.

7. TURNING TO U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS, GARBA MENTIONED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF NIGERIANS WERE STUDYING IN THE U.S. AND THAT NIGERIA HAD CONTINUED TO SUPPLY OIL TO THE U.S. DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD. BUT, DESPITE THESE THINGS, OUR RELATIONS SHOULD BE CLOSER THAN THEY ARE, AND GARBA WONDERED WHY. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT AFRICA IS NOT HIGH ON OUR PRIORITY LIST, BUT HE HAD TALKED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AGREED WITH HIM THAT THERE IS A NEED TO EXPLORE MORE AVENUES OF COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE

OF OUR CONSTRAINTS BUT THE SITUATION IS CHANGING AND HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD REVIEW ITS POLICIES. FOR ITS PART, NIGERIA WAS PREPARED TO WELCOME AMERICANS IN LARGER NUMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

8. IN CONCLUSION, GARBA SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA WOULD INSURE POLITICAL STABILITY AND THAT IT OFFERED ITS GOODWILL TO ALL IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

9. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO SPOKE IN REPLY TO COMMISSIONER GARBA BY SAYING HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND WITH NIGERIAN DYNAMISM. AS ALREADY EXPRESSED IN GARBA'S TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY, MR. SISCO SAID, WE UNCLASSIFIED

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APPRECIATE NIGERIA'S GOALS AND WISH TO SHARE IN HER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. HE ASSURED GARBA THAT THE U.S. AND NIGERIA HAVE A MUTUALITY OF INTEREST AND THAT COOPERATION IS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE RELATIONS. HE DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ROLE FOR THE U.S. IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD. HE HOPED THAT NIGERIA WOULD COOPERATE WITH US BY HELPING TO SET ASIDE THE IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE OVER THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AND TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE REAL ISSUES, SUCH AS ENERGY, COMMODITIES, AND RAW MATERIALS. LASTLY, HE ASKED THE COMMISSIONER TO CONVEY TO BRIGADIER MUHAMMED THE DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COOPERATION ON A BROAD BASIS.

10. GARBA, UCHUNO (DIRECTOR, AMERICA DEPARTMENT, MEA)

AND TWO AIDES RETURNED AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 10 TO NEW YORK. THE COMMISSIONER PLANS TO FLY FROM THERE TO SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 12 AND, AFTER A FEW HOURS, TO DEPART FOR HONG KONG.

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